PERCEIVED ACCESSIBILITY OF EXTENSION SERVICES AMONG LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN IDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OYO STATE

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ABSTRACT
This study investigated the perceived accessibility of Extension Services and Sustainable Ruminant Livestock production in IdoLocal Government Area of Oyo state, Nigeria. Multistage sampling procedure was used to sample 90 ruminant farmers. Data collected were statistically analyzed using frequency table, simple percentage and PPMC (Pearson Product Moment of Correlation). 57.6% and 42.4% respectively represented the percentages of male and female respondent. The ages of the respondents were 60yrs and above (2.4%), 50-59yrs (18.8%), 40-49yrs (37.6%), 30-39yrs (21.2%), 20-29yrs (20.0%). The number of respondents that were into large scale production was (21.2%) and small scale production (78.8%). The respondents (10.6%) practiced extensive system of management while 51.8% and 37.6% practiced intensive and semi intensive system respectively.
All the listed extension services were fully accessible to the farmers . Extension services such as access to credit facility (51%) and adoption of mechanization (69%) were not accessible to most of the ruminant livestock farmers in the study area while use of improved method of livestock husbandry (43%) was partially accessible to the farmers.
PPMC shows that there is significant relationship between the constraint affecting ruminant livestock production and accessibility to extension services which is significant at ($p<0.05$). It is evident from the research that availability of fund to manage ruminant livestock enterprise and theft has been the major constraint affecting the ruminant. Provision of credit facilities, provision of more extension agents, empowerment of extension agents and security measures should be intensified among ruminant farmers.

***Keywords**: accessibility, ruminant, livestock, extension services*

INTRODUCTION
Agricultural extensions service aims at providing farmers with the necessary education, skills and technical information to enable them to take effective farm management

decision to enhance their daily practice (Oyebanji, 2006). Farquar (1996) defines agricultural extension service as a services or system which assist farm people through educational procedures in improving methods and techniques, increasing efficiency and income, bettering their level of living and lifting social and educational standard of rural people. This definition is institutional oriented in the sense that implies that extension aims at improving the way farmers handle the things in their farming and community environment.

An effective extension service is therefore an essential factor for accelerated development of agriculture in developing countries and fast way to alleviate poverty among the rural farmers in the rural areas. Agricultural extension is an essential service that a government must provide for a country's agricultural development (Daniel *et al.,* 1998). It is thus necessary to give proper attention to the rural population who are predominantly peasant farmers, and to use appropriate skills in agriculture, forestry and related activities to improve their general welfare and the quality of their welfare (Atinmo and Akinyele,1999).

Moreover, the extension service must focus at all members of the family otherwise; improvement cannot be great and/or may not be sustained. Increase in agricultural production in order to prevent starvation and ensure better nutrition, in the face of population increase should be a matter of vital importance in our time. (Adesehinwa *et al.,* 2003).

It is widely recognized that inadequate effective extension services is a major constraint in the development of ruminant production in Nigeria (Von Kaufmann and Francis, 2020). Over the years, our rural farmers depend on indigenous or local knowledge for improved animal husbandry. Such knowledge refers to skill and experience gained through oral tradition and practice over many generations. (Norem *et al.*,2001). Yet, this improvement has not been encouraging due to their lack of new innovation which is supposed to be handled by agricultural extension agents. This study is to examine the perceived accessibility of extension services and sustainable ruminant livestock production in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Area of Study

The study was carried out in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State. It has it's headquarter at Ido and has a population of 53,582 (1991 population census). It is one of the eleven local governments that make up Ibadan metropolis. The Local Government has 10 political wards which comprises of several towns and villages. These are Odetola, Jankata, Aba-Eleshin, Gbekuba, Aba-Alamu, Ologuneru, Ile-tuntun, Akinware and others. The area is located in the low and semi deciduous forest belt of Nigeria with topography

generally undulating with attitude ranging from $121m^2$ to $163m^2$ above the sea level. The area is predominantly inhabited by indigenes and the major occupation of the people is farming.

Population of the Study
The population of the study was ruminant livestock farmers in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State.

Sampling Technique and Sampling Size
Multistage sampling procedure was used for this research. The first stage involves selection of the study area. Ido local government was purposively selected because it contains a considerable level of ruminant farmers. The second stage involves location of the ruminant farmers in the study area. The distribution of the questionnaire was done through Snowball technique, each respondent was asked to provide information needed to locate other ruminant livestock farmers whom they know. A total number of 90 questionnaires were distributed among the respondents while 85 questionnaires were retrieved.

Data Collection and Data Analysis
Data from this study were collected using primary source through the use of well structured questionnaire and personal interview method. Level of accessibility of extension services was measured using 3 point scale of response options i.e not accessible (0), partially accessible (less than 3 times) and fully accessible (more than 3 times). Descriptive technique was used to illustrate the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents; these include frequency distribution and percentage. Analytical tool such as PPMC was used to investigate relationship between two variables and compare significant association between them,

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of respondents
Table 1 showed that 57.6% of the respondents were male while 42.4% constitute female, this could be as a result of the strenuous activity of ruminant livestock keeping. This activity is seen majorly as a gender-based work i.e. it is majorly believed among people that it is a work that is solely reserved for the men. Also, most of the respondents (37.6%) are between the ages brackets of 40-49 years. They are still relatively young to cope with the rigorous task of animal production. Ajala *et al.,* (2013) cited Tsoho (2004), reported that young farmers have higher aspiration to accept new technologies than conservative older farmer that always seem to be more satisfied with their traditional methods.

A greater proportion (80.0%) of the respondents were married. This agrees with the findings of Kolawole *et al.*, (2007) and Nnadi *et al.*, (2012). This means that there will be division of labour and complementation of efforts in information supply, decision making and farm labour supply as husband, wife and children were involved.

The results also shows that majority of the respondents were literate (Table 1), with findings shows that higher percentage of the respondents attended tertiary institution. The implication is that the ability to read and write could enhance them to easily adopt new innovation. This also signifies that with a majority of the respondents having formal education, there is a greater chance of the respondents to be exposed to the latest information on rearing of ruminant animal. This is also against the prejudiced belief of the society that ruminant livestock farming is an activity that is reserved for the illiterate
With regards to experience, most of the respondents (53.9%) have been into ruminant livestock farming for about 5-10 years.

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	49	57.6
Female	36	42.4
Total	**85**	**100**
Age (Years)		
20-29	17	20
30-39	18	21.2
40-49	32	37.6
50-59	16	18.8
60 -69	2	2.4
Total	**85**	**100**
Marital Status		
Single	10	11.8
Married	68	80
Divorced	6	7.1
Widowed	1	1.2
Total	**85**	**100**

Education Level		
No formal education	9	10.6
Primary	20	23.5
Secondary	25	29.4
Tertiary	31	36.3
Total	**85**	**100**
Tribe		
Yoruba	68	80
Igbo	14	16.5
Hausa	3	3.5
Total	**85**	**100**
Experience (Years)		
Below 5 years	18	21.2
10-May	45	53.9
15-Nov	17	20
16-20	5	5.9
Total	**85**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

General information on ruminant production in the study area

Table 2a below reveals that most of the respondents (49.4%) were involved in goat production; the observation that majority of the respondents owned goats only is similar to the finding of Aphunu *et al.* (2011). However, the findings contrast that of Ajala *et al.* (2008) in the Northern Guinea Savannah region of Nigeria. It is also revealed that majority (78.8%) of these livestock farmers were practicing small-scale production while 51.8% of the respondents practiced intensive system in the study area. Also, (58.8%) of the respondents had no formal training on ruminant livestock production.

Table 2b also shows that majority of the respondents (38.8%) of the respondent's confirmed that combination of village market and middle men had been the easiest and the most efficient market outlet they have been using to sell their ruminant livestock while it is proven by 37.6% of the respondents that their purpose for practicing ruminant livestock production is mainly for sales and consumption.

General information on ruminant production in the study area

Table 2a: Percentage distribution of general information on ruminant production in the study area

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Ruminant Livestock production		
Goat	42	49.4
Sheep	7	8.2
Cattle	6	7.1
Sheep and goat	30	35.5
Total	**85**	**100**
Scale of ruminant livestock		
Production		
Large (>50 animals)	18	21.2
Small (<50 animals)	67	78.8
Total	**85**	**100**
Rearing system		
Intensive	44	51.8
Extensive	9	10.6
Semi-intensive	32	37.6
Total	**85**	**100**
Formal training on Ruminant livestock production		
Yes	35	41.2
No	50	58.8
Total	**85**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

TABLE 2b: Percentage distribution of general information on ruminant production in the study area

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Market outlet		
Middle men	19	22.4
Urban	21	24.7
Village	12	14.1
Combination of village	33	38.8
Market and middle men		
Total	85	100
Production purpose		
Sales	31	36.5
Consumption	22	25.9
Sales and consumption	32	37.6
Total	85	100

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

Level of accessibility of extension services

This section explains the level of accessibility of extension service to respondents. Table 3 below indicates that not all of the listed extension services are fully accessible to the farmers; 60% and 81.2% of the respondents did not have access to credit facility and adoption of mechanization respectively in the study area. From the information in the Table 3, 48.2% and 50.6% of the respondents had partial access to use of improved breed of livestock and use of improved method of livestock husbandry respectively.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of respondents according to the extension services that are available to them and the level of the accessibility to the service

Extension service	Level of accessibility		
	Not accessible (%)	Partially Accessible (%)	Fully accessible (%)
Control of pest and diseases	30 (35.3)	36 (42.4)	19 (22.4)
Use of improved breed of livestock	25 (29.4)	41 (48.2)	19 (22.4)
Use of improved method of livestock husbandry	23 (27.1)	43 (50.6)	19 (20.4)
Access to credit facility	51 (60.0)	21 (24.7)	13 (15.3)
Adoption of mechanization	69 (81.2)	16 (18.2)	0
Sanitization and quarantine	34 (40.0)	31 (36.5)	20 (23.5)

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

Constraints affecting ruminant livestock production

The table below shows the factors that affect livestock ruminant production in the study area. The result shows that 70.6% and 55.3% of the respondents regarded availability of fund and theft as a major constraint respectively, this agrees with the findings of Aphunu *et al.*, (2011) who reported that respondents identified inadequate fund as their major constraints that militated against small ruminant production in the study area. 45.9% and 54.1% of the respondents believed that availability of feed and accessibility to market is not a constraint. Also, 55.3%, 49.4% and 45.9% of the respondents believed that pest and disease, availability of vaccination and medication and cost of labour are minor constraints affecting ruminant production in the study area.

Table 4: Percentage distribution showing the constraints faced by the ruminant farmers in the study area

Factors	Response			Mean	SD
	Not a constraint (%)	Minor constraint (%)	Major constraint (%)		
Availability of fund	5(5.9)	20(23.5)	60(70.6)	2.6429	0.594
Availability of feed	39(45.9)	29(34.1)	17(20.0)	1.7412	0.77387
Pest and disease	11(12.9)	47(55.3)	27(31.8)	2.1882	0.64539
Theft	15(17.6)	23(27.1)	47(55.3)	2.3765	0.77115
Accessibility to market	46(54.1)	38((44.7)	1(1.2)	1.4706	0.52527
Availability of vaccination and medication	36(42.4)	42(49.4)	7(8.3)	1.6588	0.62779
Cost of labour	13(15.3)	39(45.9)	33(38.8)	2.2353	0.70114

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

Table 5 represents the correlation between the constraints affecting ruminant livestock production and accessibility to extension services. It is evident from the result that there is significant relationship between the constraint affecting ruminant livestock production and accessibility to extension services. Thus, null hypothesis is rejected. The p-value is 0.030 which is significant at ($p<0.05$) and the contingency coefficient is 0.725. It means that the more the ruminant farmer has access to extension services the less the constraint that will be faced by the ruminant farmer in the course of their ruminant livestock

production.

Table 5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Analysis of constraint affecting ruminant livestock production and accessibility to extension services

Variables	P-value	**Correlation**	**C.C**	**Decision**
Constraint	0.24	0.03	0.73	S
Vs				
Accessibility				

Note: S - Significant at 0.05 level of probability; C.C- Contingency Coefficient

CONCLUSION

The research revealed that more educated married Yoruba men of 40-49 ages were involved in ruminant livestock production with little experience. It is revealed from the study that most of the ruminant farmers do not have adequate access to extension services. It is also evident from the research that availability of fund to manage ruminant livestock enterprise and theft has been the major constraint affecting the farmers in the study area.
Based on the results of the research findings, the following recommendation can be made;
Government should help in providing more extension agents for ruminant farmers as this will help them to get access to the extension service they are deprived of,

1. Also extension agents should also be motivated and empowered in the dissemination and discharging of extension services to the ruminant farmers.

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